

School District of Green Lake

4K-12 District

300 students

32 teachers

District Administrator: Mary Allen

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Green Lake School District. I want to thank you for your thoughtful attention to the concern over distribution of tax dollars for public schools and the analysis you will be doing going forward to ensure that the process is adequate and equitable, allowing public schools like Green Lake to continue to deliver a high-quality educational program.

As you may already know, Green Lake is a small resort town, not too far from here. It is a beautiful, lake community with out-of-state residents living in multi-million dollar homes around the lake. In contrast, many of our resident families work in the tourism business and have low wages and few benefits. The school is the heart of the community. In 2010, the school found its niche in the region by becoming an International Baccalaureate School. It is the only 4K-12 IB school in the state of Wisconsin. Because of this distinction and commitment to a high-quality, 21st century education, Green Lake has become a "school of choice" in the area. 30% of our student population is open-enrolled. Parents enroll their children in Green Lake because of the quality programs and the small class size.

Green Lake is a school finance anomaly. Because of its small size... 300 students and its high property value- \$3.4 million dollars per student, in 2017-2018, the students and taxpayers in Green Lake received only \$11,280 in special adjustment aid or a mere \$ 45 per student. This set-up (high property value/lake community/small school) is the "perfect storm" for Green Lake and 21 other school districts who do not qualify for state equalization aid. They are small communities with small schools with small class sizes.

In Green Lake to add to the confusion the small student population increases the per pupil spending rate which leads people to believe that the district is overspending. In order to provide the quality education our students deserve we choose to offer a complete schedule of programming that includes the fine arts, foreign languages, technology and high-level science and math courses. In addition the cost of services such as school counseling, special education and ELL are mandated and essential. The per pupil spending rate is an illusion as it looks as though we are frivolously spending when the fact is the cost of programming is divided by a smaller group of children. There is no way to get around that in a small school as you can see with the other 21 districts in our same situation.

The other thing the districts have in common is a small mill rate. The mill rate in Green Lake is 4.77. This mill rate has been consistently flat or declining throughout the years.

As a taxpayer in Green Lake myself, I'm very happy with that mill rate. If I lived across the lake in Markesan, I'd have a mill rate of 10.27 or down the road in Ripon it would be 10.26. Green Lake is well below the state average mill rate of 9.77.

Green Lake is in the 2nd year of a 4 year referendum. We have done well through frugal budgeting and keeping salaries low. But in 2 years we will be going to referendum again and asking our taxpayers to exceed the revenue limit only to maintain what we have. This will be difficult as our fixed costs have gone up and we need to be salary competitive in order to maintain a high quality school. Consolidation has been considered by our School Board and ruled out because of the additional tax burden it would put on Green Lake's taxpayers.

The other districts in the state in our same predicament are asking for an establishment of \$1,000 per pupil minimum aid "floor" in the state general aid calculation, which we would greatly appreciate, but we are asking that you consider a different approach.

We are asking that you consider lifting the revenue limit for districts that are below the state average for mill rate. The current state average is 9.77. Green Lake is well under that average at 4.77. We understand that the revenue caps were put in place to keep costs down for taxpayers. In our case, the taxpayers already pay the majority of the costs for education and in order for our school to succeed, it is important that we are transparent and accountable to them. It is our job as a school to keep them well-informed. This relationship can be built without having a referendum every 4 years. Referendums are costly. They take away tax dollars from our community members and time away from our students. Possible ideas for you to consider are 1) eliminate the revenue cap for low mill rate districts using a formula that raises mill rates slightly to help offset rising costs 2) create an exemption to referendum for low mill rate districts who get little or no state funding. If Green Lake could raise its mill rate from 4.77 to 5.77 we would continue to be below the average mill rate and taxes would increase slightly or remain the same.

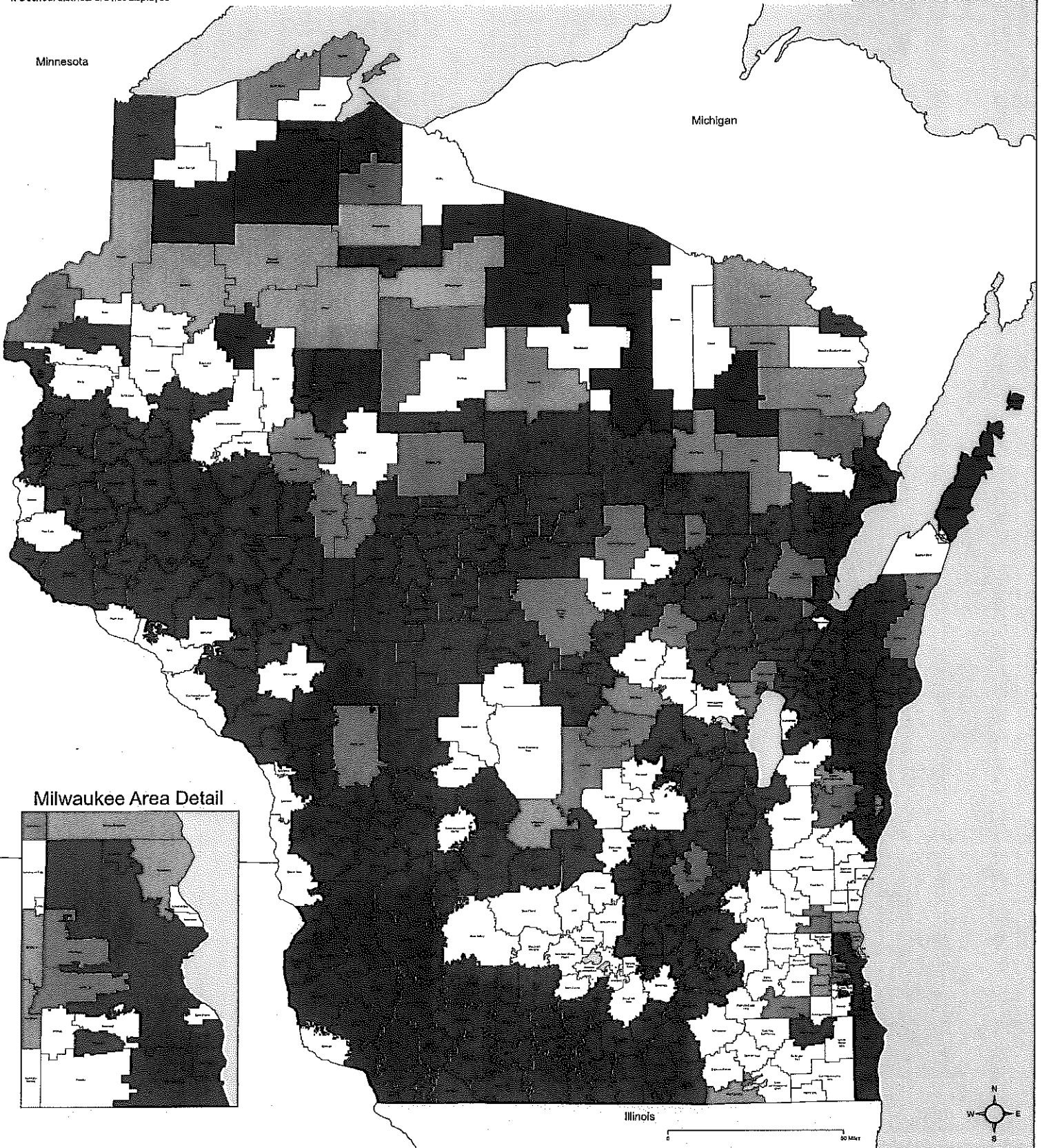
The Green Lake School District is extremely appreciative of the recent initiatives for school safety and mental health. Thank you for your time.

School Districts By Category of State Equalization Aid in 2017-18

- No Aid
- Primary Aid Only
- Negative Tertiary Aid
- Positive Primary & Secondary Aid
- Positive Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Aid



*K-8 school districts are not displayed



4/20/2018

May 2018 GLSD DP Testing

Google Calendar - May 2018

All tests given in the Collaboration Room

Sun
29Mon
30Tue
May 1Wed
2Thu
3Fri
4Sat
5

Q4 mid-term

● 12:45pm Math

● 10:15am Math

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

● 1pm English L

● 9:45am Englis

● 9:45am Histor

● 11:45am Phys

● 10:30am Phys

● 12:45pm Histo

● 12:45pm Psyc

PVP Exhibition
MVP Personal Project Event

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

● 10:30am Psyc

● 10:30am Biolo

● 11:45am Cher

● 10:30am Cher

● 8:45am Frencl

● 11:45am Biolo

● 12:45pm Frencl

10:30am
We B Done!

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Jun 1

2

Memorial Day